

APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

FY2012 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant Name: Jewish Institute of Queens	Application ID: 12AC134471
Program Name: Jewish Institute of Queens AmeriCorps Program	

For the purpose of enhancing our programs by improving the quality and quantity of applications to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), we are providing specific feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses of this application. This feedback is provided on a restricted basis and cannot be shared or distributed outside of your organization. We hope you will find this information helpful in completing applications to our future grant competitions. These comments are not meant to represent a comprehensive assessment; rather the analysis represents those elements that had the greatest bearing on the rating of your application. Please note that this feedback consists of summary comments from more than one reviewer. For this reason, some of the comments may seem to be inconsistent or contradictory.

Reviewers' Summary Comments:

- The applicant provided data that validated the positive impact of mentoring.
- The plan for Members and volunteers to execute interventions was detailed and appropriate.
- The two day/50 hour proposed training covered time lines and appropriate service related material (prohibited activities, background of community, etc.).
- The applicant selected needs based on a variety of statistics along with community member consultation.
- The applicant describes a well-developed Member training and support plan with clear objectives that will prepare Members for service, encourage teamwork and collaboration among Members and enhance Member professional development.
- The program will use surveys, questionnaires, tracking forms and pre/post-tests to determine specific areas for Members to provide technical assistance to youth-serving organizations. These tools will allow Members of the program to track performance objectives with specific quality indicators within each domain.
- The applicant clearly described how AmeriCorps members will benefit the host sites by engaging in capacity building activities to strengthen program delivery methods, identify best practices and focus on continuous improvement with staff members.
- The applicant has identified a myriad of community needs. It is also clear, from the data presented, that the community does not have the funding to adequately address the presented needs.
- The applicant provided clear outcome targets. At the end of the grant cycle, it is proposed that 56

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mentor/mentee matches will be sustained and 70% of mentored students will show improvement in literacy and math. Additionally, 100 clients will receive support services and 60% will report increased food security.

- The applicant indicates use of pre/post-tests to assess results. The applicant includes clear and specific language related to participants maintaining or increasing current grade levels in reading and math. Assessments will also include the number of community members receiving services.
- The applicant provides a clear focus on diversity. The Jewish Institute of Queens will maintain a diverse Member corps by conducting recruitment activities in both the target and neighboring communities. The target groups will include low- income immigrant populations, unemployed adults, seniors, and those who are proficient in the Russian/Bukharian language.
- A clear training program was presented, complete with a timeline of events and an estimate of the number of hours to be involved. Training would include information related to goals, objectives, outputs, outcomes, and how to achieve goals. Training would also include life skill information. The applicant intends to use the national training curriculum.
- The applicant provided convincing evidence of specific community needs and a proficient understanding of the interrelationship of these needs. The applicant identifies performance measures directly aligned with the data and evidence-based interventions that utilize AmeriCorps members to create community level change.